

COTTON CHATS

FROM

DRAPER COMPANY

SHIPMAN'S COMMON-SENSE BINDER

PATENTED

JANUARY 19, 1892.

APRIL 19, 1904

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25981

ASA L. SHIPMAN'S SONS
MANUFACTURERS,
NEW YORK.



No. 61 MAY, 1907.

PRESENT PERPLEXITIES.

Another trip South, (somewhat hastened by requested attendance during the Contract Labor litigation in the court at Greensboro, N. C.) convinced the writer that the scarce labor problem is still uppermost in the minds of the cotton mill managers. While Northrop looms help out the situation in the weaving room and warp tying-in machines liberate a large percentage in the drawing-in rooms, there are no new improvements offered for consideration which materially affect the labor employed in the manufacture of the yarn to be woven. It is in the Spinning department especially that the small help are employed, and the scarcity of small help is becoming more emphasized by reason of the stricter laws now being passed. It seems evident, when treating the matter purely as a mathematical problem, that the native supply cannot be materially enlarged unless people in the cotton mill sections will rear larger families. Even were the recommendations of President Roosevelt in this line more widely followed, it is still evident that any such happy results would have little effect on the present situation until the rising generation had reached sufficient maturity, thus postponing any appreciable assistance to the suffering mills for more than twelve years more. The native supply of help in cotton manufacturing regions is practically exhausted, so that it is necessary to either bring in more help to such sections, or build mills in other sections where the necessary help is available.

Although the Greensboro Court settled the case in trial favorably for the mill managers, the emigration laws have been amended meanwhile, requiring new experiments and new decisions before there is any guarantee of help from induced emigration. Looking at the other side of the question, it is of course impossible to consider moving present

mills from their present localities; but there is some question as to whether new mills could not find localities of their own where they could draw on a new class of labor without adding to the embarrassment of mills now running. Our larger cities might possibly offer an inviting field for the establishment of large cotton factories, since the present tendency of population to congregate in large masses usually involves a surplus of labor. The wages earned by female help in our large cities in many occupations do not compare with the better wages earned in cotton mills, and with the modern well lighted, well ventilated mills, the work can be made sufficiently attractive to compare most favorably with the city occupations now open to this grade of labor. It is found on analysis that a great proportion of the emigrants arriving in this country stay in the larger cities, and since it has been found difficult to get the emigrants to the mill, we may have to conversely **take the mill to the emigrants.**

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SOUTHERN SUPPLY OFFICE.

We have recently enlarged our Southern Supply department, consolidating our Southern office in the same building at 40 South Forsyth St., Atlanta, Ga. The Southern Supply Department was more or less of an experiment at the start, but has proved a great convenience to our customers. We intend to keep a full line of loom parts on hand, which can be furnished promptly to our customers, and by shipping from a point nearer to the Southern mills, we save them freight charges. There is a point, of course, at which shipments from the North are more advantageous, but our Southern Supply office handles the greater part of the business from the Carolinas down.

Since establishing this department, we have succeeded in converting many of our customers from the old habit of getting local castings for repairs. This use of crudely made parts on our machinery is distinctly disadvantageous to the user, and we, of course, can accept no responsibility for the proper running of our machinery, if parts are used which do not conform accurately to our own patterns. Where one of our parts is used as a pattern by which to get cast-

ings the new parts are necessarily imperfect on account of the shrink of the metal in the mould. We intend to keep our prices for supply parts so moderate that there is no profit to anyone in using substitutes, especially when the question of adaptability for the service intended is fitly considered.

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TEXTILE TEXTS.

We are pleased to announce that our third edition of Textile Texts is now ready. It will be sent to every name on our Cotton Chat list, so those who have not received copies will understand that they are probably on the way to them.

This last edition contains 356 pages and considerable new matter, such as, latest statistics on spindles in use; Arkwright Club rules for purchase of cotton; new table of power tests; table of recommended humidity; new tables for breaking strength of yarn; cloth structural tables, by which to find the reed, pick, warp, and filling numbers for desired cloth constructions; multiplication tables; and a full description of the very latest machinery manufactured and sold by ourselves.

We are presenting an entire new line of spindle designs, our new ring finish, new spooler, balling-machine, and banding-machine, our new slasher comb, and new models in looms.

We shall, as heretofore, send copies on application, to those having positions of sufficient importance in connection with cotton manufacture.

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We recently saw some figures from the books of a mill, running 800 Northrop looms, which may be interesting as a basis of comparison for others :

Shuttles, average cost per loom per year	.4697
Strapping “ “ “ “	.1884
Castings “ “ “ “	.1908
Oil “ “ “ “	.3643
Sundries “ “ “ “	.5696

\$1.7828

Our samples of dobby goods have aroused enough of interest so that we give below the numbers of dobby Northrop looms running in separate mills at present:

727	looms	in	one	mill
426	"	"	"	"
200	"	"	"	"
168	"	"	"	"
26	"	"	"	"

We expect to have large orders for this style of loom as soon as its possibilities are appreciated.

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Dockham's 1907 Directory just at hand, gives a careful compilation of cotton spindles reported by the cotton mills of the United States, as included in their equipment. From these figures I quote the total for 1906, which is larger than any estimates from other sources that I know of. It is possible that in other compilations twister spindles are not included with spinning spindles, as they do not produce yarn, and it is also possible that other estimates have relied on records obtained sometime before their conclusions were tabulated.

Cotton spindles in the United States :

1906	27,139,378
	2,022,981 gain over 1904
	1,586,511 gain of 1904 over 1902
	1,376,960 gain of 1902 over 1900
	2,742,372 gain of 1900 over 1898
	656,619 gain of 1898 over 1896
	1,627,517 gain of 1896 over 1894
	840,309 gain of 1894 over 1892
Average increase in year	775,526
Average increase for last six years	831,075

In the last two years the larger gains, proportionately, are in South and North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, New York, Alabama, Virginia, etc. In actual spindle increase South Carolina, North Carolina and Massachusetts rank in order. Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Tennessee are amongst those which show a reduction in spindlage. South Carolina is in a class by itself with an increase of over 10,000 looms in two years' time.

Present number of Cotton looms in use	605,763
" " " Woolen " "	95,204
" " " Silk " "	64,455



